



The Warrior Voice



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Warrior 6 Sound-off



COL Bill Burleson

Warriors, families and friends. I hope you had the opportunity to read the first installment of the Warrior Voice Newsletter and found it both entertaining and educational. We have begun the deployment of our Soldiers to Afghanistan and have started transitioning our processes over to our Rear Detachment leaders. Everyone has been doing a fantastic job and the efforts that have gone into the planning for this

deployment have begun to pay off. The FRG leaders are ready to assist the families in this time of transition and I want to thank them for their selfless actions and thoughtfulness during this time of rapid change. I encourage you to take advantage of these great opportunities that have been provided for the families of the 1st Brigade Combat Team and keep the links strong between our deployed soldiers and our families here at Fort Drum. In addition to the FRG web-site, which can be accessed through www.armyfrg.org, the brigade has also established a Facebook page which will give families and friends the opportunity to see all the great accomplishments of the 1BCT Soldiers in Afghanistan. The site is active and growing daily. Plus, the brigade Military Family Life Consultants also provide additional resources available for military families during deployments.

For the past sixteen months we have been training for our current mission. Maximizing the time available after the off-ramp from Iraq, we have actively taken steps to ensure our Soldiers are prepared for this upcoming

deployment. Soldiers of the 1BCT have diligently taken the efforts to learn about the culture and the Afghan people to better enable our interaction with Afghan population. I am very appreciative of the hard work and dedication our Soldiers have put forth to make the training and deployment preparation a success. I also would like to thank the families for the support they have offered our Soldiers and understand the continuing burden we place on our families during this trying time. I am certain that the training, leadership, and resolve exhibited by our Soldiers and families will keep the great traditions and the spirit of the 1st Brigade Combat Team alive and allow us to maximize our capabilities during this deployment.

Thanks again for your hard work and dedication. I look forward to serving with you on this exciting and important mission.

**To the Top,
Climb to Glory!**

CSM's Soldier's Corner

Soldiers and families of the Warrior Brigade, as you may know by now the first main body flight of the Brigade has left Fort Drum for Afghanistan. Over the course of the next few weeks, the remainder of the Brigade will follow. During this time we will do our best to keep you informed on the progress of our movement to Afghanistan.

I have seen the hard work our Soldiers have done to get us this far and I am confident in their abilities to accomplish any mission that may lie ahead. Together, we will be able to make this deployment a successful one.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your efforts in making this transition a seamless one.

Deployments are never easy, so I want to encourage our families to follow us through our Facebook page. It has the potential to be a conduit through which we will be able to maintain steady communication between loved ones.

With the dedication and professionalism I have seen from each and every Soldier of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, I am confident this deployment will make a lasting impression.



CSM Dennis Defreese

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1st BCT Cases colors for deployment

Story and photos by
Pfc. Blair Neelands

The 1st Brigade Combat Team cased its colors Tuesday at Magrath Gym, officially making the final preparations for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

More than 3,000 Warrior Brigade Soldiers will be deploying to

“I am confident you are all ready for the challenge to come,” Terry said. “You are strong, you are prepared, and you embody the warrior ethos.”

Although 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment had left the North Country in January and is already operating in Afghanistan, Soldiers stood in

previously deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with its 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment being the first conventional unit to enter Afghanistan.

The unit has since grown from a brigade of approximately 1,800 Soldiers to a brigade combat team of roughly 3,500 Soldiers.



The 1st Brigade Combat Team Color Guard renders a salute as they prepare to have the Brigades Colors cased for deployment to Afghanistan.

Afghanistan within the coming months.

The guest speaker at the ceremony was Maj. Gen. James Terry, 10th Mountain Division commander. He told Soldiers and families of the brigade how proud he is of them and how much faith he has in their abilities.

formation representing the rest of their battalion.

Since its activation on April 11, 1986, 1st Brigade has deployed to exercises both overseas and throughout the country to include Honduras, Panama, Somalia, southern Florida, and Haiti. The brigade

Most recently, the BCT deployed twice to areas of Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Once the brigade has reached their destination in Afghanistan, the units will uncase their colors and begin their mission of training the Afghan National Army.



Command Sgt. Major Dennis Defreese, presents 1st Brigade Combat Team Certificates of Appreciation and coins to the Presbyterian Women from the First Presbyterian Church of Watertown for their donation of hand-made knit caps for Soldiers of the brigade.

ArmyFRG is your direct connection to Command information for your unit. Register today for your unit's Virtual FRG site and get connected to all of the pertinent information and resources you need to stay informed and connected.

The Army Family Readiness Group (Army FRG) website provides a secure environment in which information, resources, and support are available to Soldiers and their Family Members 24 hours a day, regardless of their geographic location. A unit's virtual FRG site or vFRG promotes a community feeling within Army units by providing a place that is customized to the unit and contains content that is controlled by the unit. Army FRG provides all of the functionality of a traditional FRG in an ad-hoc and on-line setting to meet the needs of geographically dispersed units and Families across all components of the Army.



If the Family Member has not registered for the Army FRG site already, go to www.armyfrg.org. and click on **"Find an FRG"** in the left navigation bar.

Select the CONUS or OCONUS location of the FRG's home. Then chose the FRG from the list of units listed for that location. You can narrow the search if the list is long.

In the dropdown of the next page, set the *"I am subscribing as a"* drop down to **"Family Member"**, Then enter the Family Member's first and last names and then the Soldier of Interest's first and last names and the last 4 digits of the Soldier's SSN.

Note, the Family Member's name must appear exactly as it was entered in the invitation list for automatic approval. Fill in the account information for the Army FRG web site.



3-6 FA Brings on the HEAT

Story by
1st Lt. John Pirina

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, trained with the high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle egress assistance trainer on Fort Drum, Feb. 17.

HEAT, officially known as HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer, is another of the many realistic scenario-based exercises the Army uses.

Soldiers sit in the cab of a tactical vehicle attached to a hydraulic platform that allows an operator to slowly turn the vehicle over and then the Soldiers inside must release their seatbelts and exit the vehicle.

“Rollover training is an excellent opportunity to provide Soldiers a realistic experience of a rollover in a controlled environment,” said Maj. Robb Marshall, executive officer, 3-6 FA. “It goes a long way to reduce the risk of travelling in Afghanistan.”

In the rollover scenario, Soldiers gain hands-on experience safely exiting an overturned vehicle, both on its side and while it’s completely flipped over.

“It makes you think about what you would do if you’re in a rollover,” said 2nd Lt. Mike McGraw, an assistant intelligence officer, Headquarters and



Soldiers from 3-6 Field Artillery prepare train with the High mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle Egress Assistance Trainer

Headquarters Battery, 3-6 FA. “Now I’ll pay more attention to where the door handles and seatbelt latches are located when I get in a vehicle.”

Once overturned, Soldiers must determine which door will open and then maneuver themselves through the vehicle and out the door or the gunner’s hatch.

“It left me disoriented and shows the need to be prepared for a rollover, to include making sure gear is tied down,” said 2nd Lt. William Duke, the chemical officer, 3-6 FA. “There is so little room to move, especially when wearing all the gear.”

It also makes Soldiers think about where they are in relation to

each other in the vehicle. Pfc. Caleb Shelton, an intelligence analyst, 3-6 FA, experienced this first hand when another Soldier unlatched their seatbelt and fell on top of him.

“When he released his seatbelt he fell on me,” said Shelton. “You have to be aware of the other Soldiers in the vehicle with you and help them out too.”

In one rotation of the training, a Soldier was not properly secured in the gunner’s seat and slid into the vehicle.

“When we began to turn over, he fell,” said Spc. Matt Miranda, an intelligence analyst, 3-

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Always training means always ready

Story by

2nd Lt. Benjamin Stumpf

Before the Alpha Company Alpha Gators, 1st Battalion, 87th Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, knew they were going to Afghanistan, they were ready to answer their nation's call. The past several weeks have been filled with pre-deployment activities such as theater specific individual readiness training for this company and many others in the 1st BCT on Fort Drum.

TSIRT consists of classes designed to inform and test Soldiers on their ability to handle certain circumstances and situations they may encounter while overseas. Specifically, Soldiers learn methods for detecting types of improvised

explosive devices, how to perform a proper route clearance, how to administer first aid and how to properly handle weapons, just to name a few.

While all Soldiers conducted the basic level classes, some Soldiers were afforded the opportunity to take part in more advanced skill classes, such as robotics.

"I felt like I was on 'Future Weapons,'" said Spc. Joe Rusch, a team leader, A Co., 1-87. "I know the skills I learned will someday help us complete the mission."

In addition to TSIRT, Gator Soldiers were also becoming proficient in combat life saving skills and combatives.

A mentally intensive 40-hour combat life saving course was taught

by the A Company, 1-87, medics; Spc. Joshua Chamberlin, Spc. Matthew Babcock and Pvt. Donovan Lovelace.

The three well-trained and knowledgeable medics trained and qualified over 20 Gator Soldiers covering everything from pressure bandages to tourniquets and open chest wounds.

"It was a great opportunity for me to impart some of my specific knowledge to the men," said Babcock. "It's one thing to do concurrent training with them, but it's much better to have them for a whole week with no distractions. It's

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Keeping a watchful eye and weapons at the ready, "Gators" from Alpha Company, 1-87 Infantry negotiate the MOUT training site on Fort Drum.



Triple Deuce takes over

Story by

By 1st Lt. Brian Rau

KABUL, Afghanistan – The 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, “Triple Deuce,” 1st Brigade Combat Team, assumed control of the Kabul Military Training Center from 48th Brigade Combat Team of the Georgia Army National Guard during a transfer of authority ceremony Friday.

The KMTC is the primary training center for the Afghan National Army. It is responsible for the growth of the ANA to its stated goal of 134,000 soldiers by Oct. 31, up from the 93,000 soldiers they had last October.

The ceremony, presided over by British Brig. Gen. Simon R. Levey, commander of the Combined Training Assistance Group-Army, saw Col. Carl Quinn, commander of 48th BCT, turn over the reins to Lt. Col. Michael Loos, commander of Triple Deuce.

“The eyes of the world are on you,” Levey said. “Deliver the goods.”

Since Levey heads the organization that oversees all ANA training and advising, he stressed the importance of increasing the quality and quantity of the ANA soldiers.

Levey went on to say that Triple Deuce Soldiers will go a long

way in assisting the ANA in “standing on its own feet,” allowing the coalition to assume a reduced role.

The 48th BCT leaves KMTC having overseen several major changes. In the eight months before Triple Deuce’s arrival, the ANA transitioned from the Soviet AK-47



Lt. Col. Michael Loos, along with the rest of 2-22 Infantry, stand ready to take on their mission at the Kabul Military Training Center.

to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization M-16 as its primary weapon system.

Additionally, basic warrior training increased by more than 100 percent. Levey noted the increased training capacity occurred seamlessly, concluding that it was a “job well done.”

Through his interpreter, Brig. Gen. Ali Ahmad, Afghan KMTC commander, praised his relationship with 48th BCT and its commander and said he looks forward to his partnership with the Triple Deuce commander.

“Your legacy is your performance, and that has set us up for success,” Loos said.

He then thanked the 48th BCT and promised the Triple Deuce would give “110 percent.” Loos assured Ahmad, “We are here to stand next to you.”

Loos then turned to his Soldiers, telling them that they have a “unique mission” and reminding them of the battalion’s motto. “Deeds, not words, will allow us to complete the mission.”

Now that 2-22 Infantry has completed the transition of leadership, Loos and Command Sgt. Maj. Mio Franceschi can turn their attention to synchronizing the efforts of

members of the seven coalition nations who live and work at the KMTC.

KMTC is home not only to basic warrior training, but also to officer training, noncommissioned officer training and specialty skills training in such fields

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10th BSB medics jump into action as they treat a simulated casualty during their situation training exercise.

Sherpa medics train for battle care

Story and photos by
Spc. Angeline Smith

Soldiers of Charlie Company, 10th Brigade Support Battalion put their medical skills to the test recently in training exercise geared to prepare them for the stresses trauma treatment in combat at the Medical Simulation Training Center on Fort Drum.

The day began with an extensive practical physical fitness training session that involved moving casualties through different areas without causing further harm. Teams of five maneuvered the casualties over various terrain and obstacles,

including a tunnel, hills and lowering from a building and a helicopter.

After a quick breakfast it was on to the medical lanes where the Soldiers were rushed into a room filled with smoke and simulated battle noises. There, they were presented two casualties with extensive wounds.

At this station the Soldier medics jumped into action with every member of the four to five man teams assessing injuries and commencing treatments. Once the patients were deemed stable by the instructor, the test participants had to display the proper way to call for

further treatment at a better equipped facility.

To make the medical lane more realistic and to add more tension music and the sound of gunshots was echoed from speakers overhead as the Soldiers ran through the events.

Everyone in the company was involved in the training and demonstrated their ability to not only give initial care to the wounded, but also continue treatment at a medical facility.

The end result of this event will better prepared the Soldiers for their upcoming deployment.



10th BSB trains with battle simulator

Story and photos by
1st Lt. Pete Bennett

One of the biggest threats to US Soldiers serving in Afghanistan is being attacked during a convoy in hostile enemy territory. While the 10th Brigade Support Battalion may not have the same type of missions as the maneuver Battalions within the 1st Brigade Combat Team, its Soldiers are susceptible to the same kind of attacks while delivering supplies and personnel through hostile areas.

Thanks to the Virtual Battle Space Simulator (VBS2) training at the Battle Command Training Center

the 10th BSB's Alpha Company Convoy Security Element will be better prepared to react to any emergency.

The first group to receive the training was 1st Lt. Blair DiDomenico's first squad. She has been preparing her platoon for over a year developing tactics, techniques and procedures and completing field training exercises.

"This mission was treated just like a mission overseas including a Go-NoGo brief, patrol brief and a safety brief," she said. "The VBS2 served as a final virtual assessment of our

platoon's convoy security element skills"

The complexity of the scenarios was similar to training conducted during their deployment to the Joint Readiness Training Center in early August 2009. Each scenario offered worst case possibilities to effectively train the platoon on reacting to improvised explosive devices, civilians on the battlefield, small arms fire and other various insurgent activities. This training was just another way to give confidence to the Convoy Security Element and keep them current on deployed operations.

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For information & photos please contact us at warrior_pao@yahoo.com

1BCT Soldiers qualify on the M-ATV

Story and photos by
Spc. Blair Neelands

It might look like a standard up armored military truck from the outside, but from the drivers perspective it operates more like a large sport utility vehicle on steroids than a combat vehicle.

Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team trained on the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All Terrain Vehicle, or M-ATV, throughout January and February to learn its capabilities and uses for Afghanistan.

Oshkosh Corporation's Defense division created the M-ATV to meet the U.S. Armed Services need for a new vehicle to handle Afghanistan's harsh road conditions.

"The M-ATV is an all-terrain vehicle that's designed and built to go where others can't go," said Thomas Glover, a contracted instructor from TJ FIG Incorporation. "MRAPs are designed for troop movement; M-ATVs are designed for combat."

Many of the Warrior Brigade Soldiers who went through the course said they liked the improved handling of the vehicle.

"The turning radius was really good," said Cpl. David Relf, a military policeman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st BCT. "You don't have to make wide turns because it handles almost like an SUV."

Relf also noted the comfort of the seating was improved and said

he liked the extra leg room in the back seats.

"The driver's seat is pretty comfortable and you can make adjustments on it to fit you," he said.

In the M-ATV brochure it states, "In today's most challenging battle zones, the M-ATV is the combat-tested, mobile, survivable, durable solution – the solution to getting Warfighters to the fight and back again."

Though the comfort additions are well liked by the Soldiers, the number one priority of the M-ATV is protect its crew.

"It can protect the Soldiers and save lives, and that's a great thing," Relf said. "It handled really well when it snowed out there. With an MRAP you have to be careful of possible roll-overs, but the M-ATV took it well."

"This Vehicle will change Afghanistan," said Reginald Dargan, a field service representative from Oshkosh.

According Dargan, some of the safety improvements made on the M-ATV are the v-shaped, the extended wheel base,



Pvt. Kendall Hall, a mortar man with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, conducts a preventative maintenance checks and services before driving the mine resistant ambush protected all terrain vehicle for the first time Feb. 18.

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HEAT *continued from page 6.*

6 FA, who witnessed the incident while inside the vehicle. "Because of him, I'll remember to always make sure I'm secured when I get in a vehicle."

Soldiers learned many things to look out for during the training and gained a new respect for their seatbelts.

"It emphasized the need to wear seatbelts despite of all the protective gear we wear," said 1st Lt. Matt Gregor, the fire direction officer, 3-6 FA. "It gives you confidence knowing the seatbelt will do its job and hold you in place while you figure out how to get out."

Ready *continued from page 7.*

during that time that they really learn the critical tasks."

The addition of over 20 new CLS qualified personnel is great for the company's combat readiness status.

For those that were lucky and brave enough to get chosen, a combatives level one certification course was conducted at the same time through the efforts of

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-87.

The Gators sent ten of their toughest Soldiers of the one-week course that started with basic escapes and submissions.

At the culmination of the course, the Soldiers were learning open and close fist strikes. They were also trained to perform the notorious "clinch drill." This is where a student must achieve an approved hold on an instructor, throwing punches without striking themselves.

"I feel much more confident in myself," said Spc. Samuel Warner, an infantryman, A Co., 1-87. "I definitely learned that I'm tougher than I thought."

Not surprisingly all the Gators who started the week, ended the week certified and a little prouder.

2-22 Takes Over *continued from page 8.*

as logistics, communications and field medicine.

Loos emphasizes every day that the quality of the product is the key to success.

There is little doubt that with the right amount of "Shohna ba Shohna" (Shoulder to Shoulder) partnership with their Afghan counterparts, that the Triple Deuce will accomplish their mission and leave the Afghan National Army a more capable fighting force.

M-ATV training *continued from page 8.*

and the independent suspension. All of which keep the Soldiers further away from possible explosions and prevent roll-over accidents.

Currently 1st Brigade does not own any M-ATVs at Fort Drum, the vehicles they'll eventually own are already waiting for them Afghanistan.

After Oshkosh delivered the first 46 vehicles to the Department of Defense in July 2009, the production rate jumped from 70 to over 1,000 vehicles per month. M-ATVs will continue to be produced at this rate through April.



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